

god of Entertainment

July 14, 2019

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2. What kinds of entertainment do you sacrifice most for?

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Jesus taught through stories and amusing snippets of life!

A Relentless Pursuit of Pleasure

“I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless. ² So I said, “Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?” ³ After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

⁴ I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves....¹⁰ Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. ¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.” - Ecclesiastes 2:1-6, 10, 11 NLT

Fear God and Obey His Commands

“Ultimately the gods of pleasure can’t satisfy our desires. We come to final realization that what we need cannot be found through the stomach, through sexuality, or through amusement. We want pure, unadulterated joy, and the trail finally leads to God himself. At the end of Solomon’s journal, he reached this conclusion ‘That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty.’ (Eccl. 12:13 NLT)”

– Kyle Idleman, *gods at war*, p. 123

Pursuit 1 - The Joy of Worship

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“Worship is the arena in which God recalibrates our hearts, reforms our desires, and rehabituates our loves. Worship isn’t just something we do; it is where God does something to us. Worship is the heart of discipleship because it is the gymnasium in which God retrains our hearts.” - James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit*

Pursuit 2 - The Joy of Contribution

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“We’re image bearers, created to rule, to partner with God in pushing and pulling the creation project forward, to work it, to draw out the earth’s potential and unleash it for human flourishing – to cooperate with God in building a civilization where his people can thrive in his presence. And in this cosmic agenda, each of us has a vocation, a calling from God, a way that God wired us, somebody to be and something to do – because the two merge in perfect symmetry.”- John Mark Comer, *Garden City: Work, Rest, and the Art of Being Human*

Pursuit 3 - The Joy of God's Family

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“so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” - Romans 12:5

“But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.” - 1 John 1:7

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.
25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”
- Hebrews 10:24-25